

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

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DATE: 8 October 1953

TO : DD/TR(S)

25X1 FROM :

SUBJECT: Advanced Political Intelligence Course; Proposal

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I recommend to establish an Advanced Political Intelligence Course in the framework of the Advanced Training Division. Each course is to last two weeks. No less than 12 and no more than 18 to 20 students should be admitted to each class. The course should be taught as often as enrollment of qualified students makes it necessary: for the beginning, I suggest that we plan to hold one class every three months.

I. Justification:

Thorough understanding of the major political forces in contemporary international affairs, as well as in the foreign and domestic affairs of foreign countries, is the indispensable foundation for all political intelligence work, whether it consists in the gathering of political intelligence (FI) or in political and psychological (PP). The existing training program does not convey any such comprehensive understanding, even though passing reference to political questions is being made in a number of courses. The existing course, for instance, deals necessarily with political matters only from the viewpoint of operational methods and techniques; the CPO course, also largely concerned with operational and tactical questions, deals in its political part exclusively with the Communist Party (which is its assigned task) but teaches little about the historic background of communism or about the relationship between communism and the broader frame of contemporary history.

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Even staff members who have acquainted themselves with the basic facts of contemporary international affairs (whether in college or through self-study) have usually not learned to see these facts from the specific viewpoint of intelligence operations. Moreover, persons familiar with the political scene and with political organizations in this country are usually tempted to apply their domestic observations to developments in foreign countries which are in most cases quite different from any comparable phenomena here, even though the same terms may be used to describe them (for instance, "political party"). On the other hand, our unavoidable preoccupation with combatting communism may induce our staff personnel to interpret the American role in international affairs merely as a fight against communism and to consider communism as an isolated, more or less static factor in the world scene--instead of understanding it as a continuously changing part of the entire, closely integrated fabric of international relations.

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The political intelligence officer (either in FI or in PP) should therefore be taught how to analyze and to interpret the contemporary international scene for purposes of intelligence operations. He should learn to understand the problems of international affairs and of the policies of foreign countries as a dynamic flow of interrelated events--and not as a mere accumulation of static facts (which you "know" once and for all after you have learned them).

II. Admission of Students:

Completion of basic training or equivalent experience in the Clandestine Services, whether in headquarters or in the field, should be the preliminary condition for enrollment. The course is meant for FI officers dealing primarily with political intelligence, including reports and planning officers and for all operating PP personnel, especially for those conducting or planning PP operations.

III. Teaching Method:

About one half of the course should consist of lectures (see the attached curriculum). In the interest of continuity and close integration of the entire program, it is suggested that all lectures be given by one and the same instructor. The other half of the course is to be devoted to students' self-study, library research, students' lectures and to a classroom problem. On the first day of the course, students will be given a definite program for individual research and study which they ought to carry out independently in the Library of Congress. At the same time, students will be acquainted with the contents of the problem which they will have to solve towards the end of the course so that they may concentrate their library research upon preparation for that problem. Moreover, students will be assigned specific lectures so that they can utilize their study and research periods for the preparation of such lectures. The latter will deal either with selected national or regional political problems (to be determined in each case according to the country and the problems with which every student is especially familiar) or with particular international questions--in either case the student lectures shall present illustrative supplements to the more general topics treated by the instructor.

IV. Problem:

One half day of the course is to be devoted to a classroom problem. Each student is to choose a target country--it might either be the country to which he is assigned or a country where he was stationed before or one which he is particularly familiar with. With reference to the target country, each student will have to prepare (a) a summary of the dominating issues of foreign and domestic policies, viewed with reference to their historic background; (b) a forecast of likely or possible political developments in the next 2 years; (c) suggested main targets for political FI and for PP operations. The student's suggestions should be his own and not a paraphrase of any country plans or other pertinent Agency documents which

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might already exist. Each student's paper should be accompanied by a bibliography, indicating the material which he has used during the preceding study periods.

On the last day of the course, a lecture suggesting further self-studies and research on the part of the students (with special reference to required area knowledge) should be given. At the same time, a bibliography of recommended further reading--to be kept by the students--shall be contributed.



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ADVANCED POLITICAL INTELLIGENCE COURSE

CURRICULUM

1st Week - Monday

- 9:00-10:00 Lecture: "The Significance of Political Intelligence for the work of our Agency. Purpose of the course."
- 10:00-12:00 Lecture: "Political Leadership as Science and as Art"
- 1:00-3:00 Lecture: "Techniques of Intelligence Research: Use of Overt Sources"
- 3:00-5:00 Assignment of study and lectures to each student

Tuesday

- 9:00-12:00 Lecture: "World History in the Twentieth Century: Highlights of International Events"
- 1:00-5:00 Library Research

Wednesday

- 9:00-12:00 Lecture: "The Rise of Nationalism and the Colonial Independence Movements"
- 1:00-5:00 Library Research

Thursday

- 9:00-12:00 Lecture: "The Technological Revolution and its Political Impact"
- 1:00-5:00 Library Research

Friday

- 9:00-12:00 Lecture: "Population Problems, Changes in the Social Structure and Mass Migration"
- 1:00-5:00 Library Research

2nd Week - Monday

- 9:00-12:00 Lecture: "The International Labor Movement: Unionism, Socialism and Communism"
- 1:00-5:00 Library Research

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Tuesday

- 9:00-12:00 Lecture: "Political Parties: Democratic and Autocratic Tendencies in Mass Organizations"
- 1:00-5:00 Library Research

Wednesday

- 9:00-12:00 Lecture: "Governments: Their Expanded Functions, Control Powers and Administrative Mechanisms"
- 1:00-5:00 Classroom Problem

Thursday

- 9:00-12:00 Three student lectures on selected international questions (one each in the following fields: Communism - Colonial Independence Movements - Democratic Policies and Organizations)
- 1:00-5:00 Four student lectures on regional problems (one each in the following regions: Soviet Union, Central and Western Europe, Eastern Europe, Southeastern Europe)

Friday

- 9:00-12:00 Three student lectures on regional problems (one each in the following regions: Far East, Near East and Africa, Western Hemisphere)
- 1:00-3:00 Critique of the problem papers
- 3:00-4:00 Lecture: "Suggested Further Self-Studies"
- 4:00-5:00 Discussion of the results of the course

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